

Thomas, Felicia

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 10:21 AM
To: DeGering, Tracy
Cc: Woodruff, Leigh
Subject: NPDES permit;

Categories: Responded To This Email

Tracy,

I would like to address the following concerns with NPDES,

1. Changing the date of the NPDES meeting makes it financially risky for me to go ahead with purchasing mining equipment for the upcoming 2013 season at this time. I may not be able to mine with the equipment that I would purchase due to the prohibitive nature of the proposed permit. I have already put off such purchases to the point which manufacturers of the equipment are too busy and cannot guarantee the delivery before mining season begins.
2. Myself and others have been working on expanding our mining activities with the State of Idaho agencies, Dept. of Water Resources, and Dept. of Lands, as well as the Dept. of Fish and Game. We have worked with our State Representative and our State Attorney General. My concern is that they will not be able to attend the meeting at the same time and place as us who are effected by NPDES permit rules. Your new meeting plan would eliminate a question and answer time, which would be most valuable to all in attendance.
3. I have as yet no idea what the final draft of NPDES permit would look like and what benefit it would be for the environment.
4. I live in Idaho and have complied with all necessary permits to mine in my chosen location. I have invested my own time and resources to mine in Idaho with a suction dredge. I am considering myself a stake-holder in these proceedings.
5. The Supreme Court of the United States has recently ruled in Decker v. Northwest Environmental Defensed Center, that the Clean Water Act only applies to industrial pollutants.

Don Smith

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